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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,301	08/05/2003	Shunji Tanaka	42610-2500	7958

7590 11/16/2005

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EXAMINER

PATEL, NITIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,301

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Nitin Patel

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/7/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the a housing assembly with a perimeter approximately defined as a pair of horizontal parallel chords dissecting a circle must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1,2,4,5,6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Twombly (U.S. Patent No.5,136,516).

As per claim 1, Twombly discloses a combination indicator assembly for a vehicle which comprises (In fig.10: a generally arcuate analog display unit for displaying the number of revolutions of a vehicle engine (In fig.1 analog number speed limit); and a generally rectangular digital display (In fig.1 element 13 a digital display) unit disposed inside the analog display unit, said digital display unit including a speedometer region and either a multifunctional meter region or a coolant temperature display region for displaying the temperature of a coolant of the vehicle engine(in col.3 lines 60-65 system parameters read as temperature and coolant of the vehicle).

As per claim 2, Twombly shows the digital display unit includes the multifunctional meter region and the multifunctional meter region is capable of selectively displaying one of the distance of travel of the vehicle and a clock (In fig.1 and In col.3 lines 40-50).

As per claim 4, Twombly discloses digital display unit is of a generally rectangular configuration extending from a center portion of a circle (element 14 and 13

In fig.1), that is represented by a shape of the arcuate analog display unit (In fig.1 element 9), to a side portion between a pair of ends of the arcuate analog display unit (element 13 and 14 has two sides of analog signals representing the speedometer).

As per claim 5, Twombly shows the analog display unit and the digital display unit are formed on a liquid crystal panel (in col.3 lines 10-20).

As per claim 6, Twombly shows a housing assembly with a perimeter approximately defined as a pair of horizontal parallel chords dissecting a circle (as best understood by examiner taught in fig.1); an electrically activated unit mounted within the housing assembly (In fig.1 element 2) an overlay member extending across the display unit and having a series of opening extending around a portion of a rectangular opening (In fig.1 element 14 and 13) and a control unit (in col.4 lines 10-13 a CPU as a control unit) for driving the display unit to illuminate the series of opening to provide an indicator of engine revolutions(In fig.1) per unit and to provide numerical symbols in the rectangular opening representation of performance characteristic of the velocity(In fig.1).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3,7,8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest comprising a plurality of indicators each capable of displaying an operating mode and a selector button for selecting the displays provided in the digital display unit, said indicators and selector button being disposed at

respective positions leftwardly and rightwardly of the analog display unit, respectively as claimed in claim 3.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest a set of indicator lamps aligned in a curvilinear pattern adjacent a circular portion of the perimeter and a plurality of operator control members aligned in a curvilinear pattern adjacent another circular portion of the perimeter opposite from the set of indicator lamps as claimed in claims 7,8.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nitin Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7677. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin H. Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NP



November 12, 2005

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